REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant hereby responds to the non-final Office Action dated December 5, 2007. In that office action, claims 22-31 were withdrawn as non-elected; claims 20 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 (first and second paragraphs); claims 1-7 and 20-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over United States Patent No. 4,402,681 (Haas et al.) and claims 9, 12-25, 17 and 18 were deemed allowable if rewritten to include all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Without indicating agreement with the stated grounds for rejection of claims 1-7 and 20-21, applicant has hereby amended claims 1, 12, 15 and 17 to place those claims and the claims that depend therefrom in condition for allowance based on the allowbility stated in the Office Action. Also, claims 9, 20 and 21 have been cancelled, without prejudice.

Conclusion

Applicant believes that, after entry of this amendment, all claims 1-8 and 10-19 will be in condition for allowance and should be passed to issue. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required under 37 C.F.R. 1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-0878. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would in any way expedite the prosecution of the application, please do not hesitate to call the undersigned at telephone (949)450-1750.

Respectfully submitted,
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